

Remarks

Claims 19-22 are pending in the present application.

In the Election of Species Requirement dated June 16, 2004, the Examiner has indicated on the Office Action Summary Form PTOL-326 that claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. However, claims 1-18 were canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed along with the present application on November 14, 2003. Claims 19-22 were presented for examination via the Preliminary Amendment.

A courtesy copy of the Preliminary Amendment dated November 14, 2003, is enclosed. Also, a copy of the dated, stamped postcard receipt is enclosed as evidence that the Preliminary Amendment has been received by the U.S. Patent Office.

Applicants respectfully submit that since claims 1-18 are no longer pending in the present application, the Election of Species Requirement as prepared in view of canceled claims 1-18, is defective. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

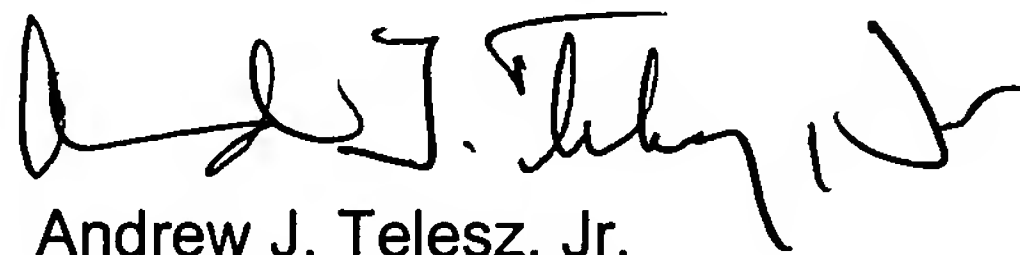
Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Enclosures: Copy of Preliminary Amendment dated November 14, 2003
Copy of dated, stamped postcard receipt